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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

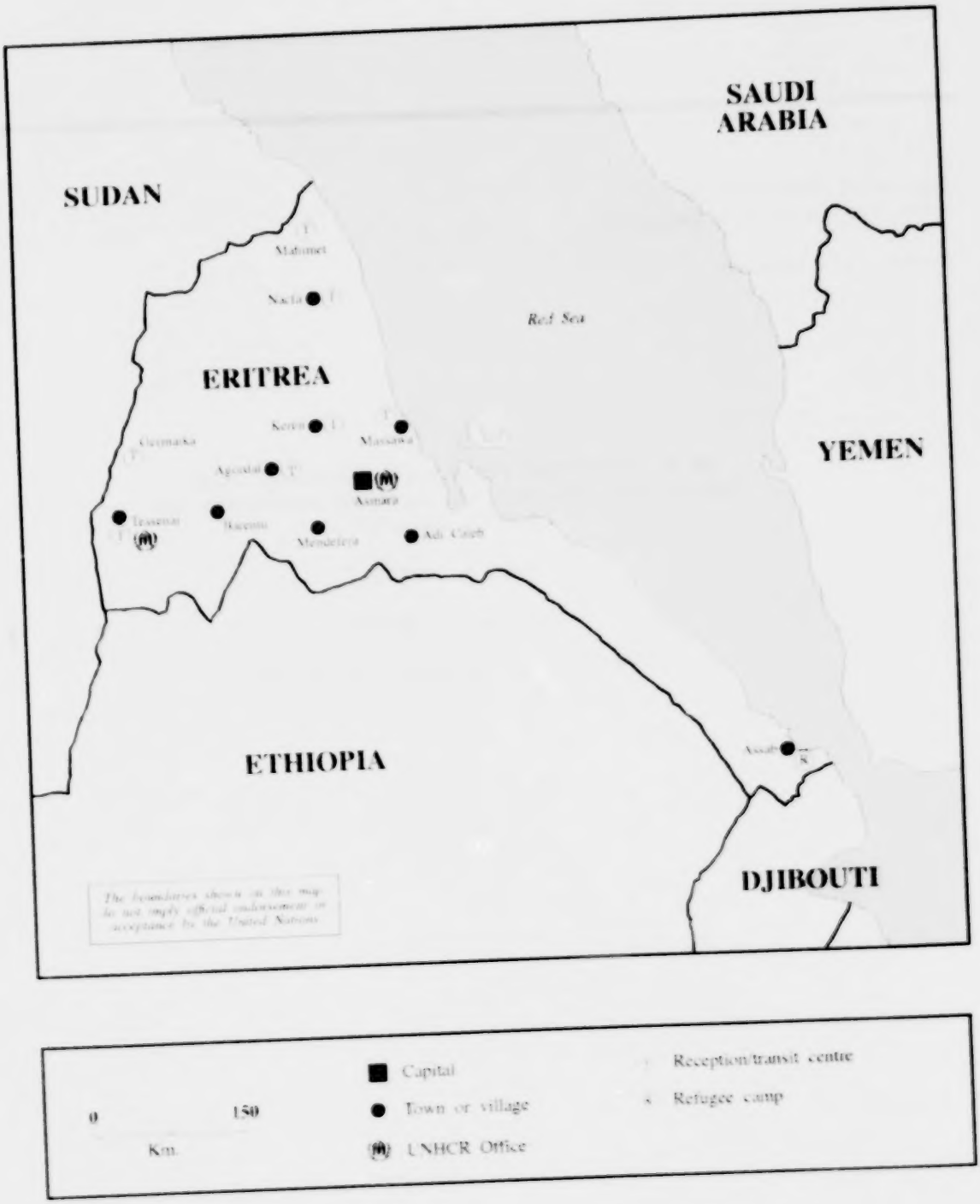
PART I. AFRICA

Section 7 - Eritrea

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02308

ERITREA


SAUDI ARABIA
SUDAN
Mahimet
Nakfa
Red Sea
ERITREA
Keren
Massawa
Asmara
Agordat
Tessenei
Barentu
Mendefera
Adi Caieh
YEMEN
ETHIOPIA
Assab
DJIBOUTI
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
0
150
Km.
Capital
Town or village
UNHCR Office
Reception/transit centre
Refugee camp

I.7 ERITREA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, Eritrea hosted 706 refugees consisting of 704 Somalis and 2 Sudanese. By 1 April 1995, this number had increased to 867 mainly due to a further influx from Somalia. These refugees are sheltered in a temporary camp in Assab and are fully dependent on UNHCR assistance for all their material needs. The majority of them are below the age of 18.

2. Since November 1994, some 24,200 Eritrean refugees from the Sudan have been assisted to repatriate under a project designed for the repatriation of 25,000 persons. It is estimated that since 1991 over 100,000 refugees have spontaneously repatriated, mainly to rural areas in Eritrea.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. Since early 1995, the influx of Somali refugees has continued to increase. The refugee population fluctuated on account of illegal migration of Somalis to Yemen via Assab. Although the Eritrean authorities no longer allow the Somalis to embark on vessels destined for Yemen within the port of Assab, it appears difficult to bring the illegal migration to a halt. Assuming stability in North-West Somalia, it is envisaged that the refugee population in Assab will stabilize at around 1,000. Following the increase in the refugee population, the shelter situation in the transit camp in Assab, where the refugees are temporarily accommodated, has become untenable. Therefore, construction of new facilities is underway in the Harsile camp in Assab. The construction itself was delayed due to significant design and implementation problems.

4. During the course of 1994 two separate Memoranda of Understanding were signed by UNHCR with the Governments of Eritrea and the Sudan which provide the framework for voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees. The pilot phase planned for the repatriation of 25,000 Eritreans from Sudan within the Programme for Refugee Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Resettlement Areas in Eritrea (PROFERI) began in November 1994. Some 24,200 Eritreans were assisted to return at the end of the pilot project.

5. The start of the pilot phase was delayed due to late finalization of the Memoranda of Understanding as well as some logistical problems. Furthermore, as registration for repatriation proceeded, it became evident that the majority of the returnees were requesting to return to only one of the four provinces foreseen in the plan of operation. Moreover, a substantial number of returnees requested inland transportation to 73 different sites against the originally planned 9 sites. This resulted in a significant modification in overall planning and preparation by the Commission for Eritrean Refugee Affairs (CERA) and UNHCR, and consequently only 8,706 returnees could be received and resettled between mid-November 1994 and

December 1994. Thus the pilot operation planned for the repatriation of 25,000 refugees by December 1994 was extended to May 1995. Meanwhile preparation for Phase I of the operation to repatriate some 100,000 returnees is underway followin a successful conclusion of the pilot phase.

6. An appeal for funds was launched by UNHCR in March 1995 for its part in the Phase I of PROFERI.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

7. The construction of the Harsile camp in Assab to accommodate the refugee population will be finalized during the course of 1995. During 1996, care and maintenance assistance will continue to be provided to an estimated 1,000 Somali refugees in Assab. Meanwhile possibilities for durable solutions for this caseloa will be pursued.

8. Phase II of the operation under PROFERI which foresees repatriation and reintegration of up to 150,000 Eritreans will begin in 1996. UNHCR will assist th returnees, through CERA, with basic food commodities (supplied by WFP), in-country transport, the establishment of resettlement sites, provision of temporary shelter transport and distribution of non-food items, as well as institutional support to CERA. Provision is also made for continuation of quick impact projects (QIPs) in 1996. However, progress in repatriation will very much depend upon the donor support that the Eritrean Government will receive in rehabilitating the war-damage country in order to build up the absorption capacity for the returnees. Therefore planning assumptions may require adjusting through periodic reviews.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

9. **Care and Maintenance**: The refugee assistance programme in 1996 will include improved provision of services such as shelter, food, health care, potable water supply and sanitation, basic education, and other community services for an estimated 1,000 Somali refugees.

(ii) Special Programmes

10. **Horn of Africa**: The sectoral breakdown of the revised 1995 and initial 1996 allocation for the reintegration programme in Eritrea is as follows (in US dollars):

Sector	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	585,370	659,950
Transport/logistics	4,130,945	1,291,885
Domestic needs	1,067,500	1,067,500
Water	172,700	111,000
Sanitation	245,000	200,000
Health	243,976	225,157
Construction/shelter	3,837,063	4,251,440
Community services	119,200	117,500
Education	119,200	117,500
Crop production	180,000	65,600
Livestock	253,870	212,425
Agency op. support	462,576	348,543
Total	11,417,400*	8,668,500

* including $ 3,000,000 allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation.

(c) Implementing partners

11. In the case of PROFERI, the responsible government body and UNHCR's implementing partner is CERA. This Commission is mandated by the Government of Eritrea to coordinate the returnee programme working closely with the line ministries in the implementation of a wide range of sectoral activities. Bilateral funding towards the PROFERI is channelled through CERA and allocated to the line ministries. Similarly, the Ministry of Internal Affairs is mandated by the Government of Eritrea as a body responsible for refugee issues and is UNHCR's implementing partner for the ongoing refugee assistance programme.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

12. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates due to savings made following the prolonged vacancies in two professional posts at the Office of the Chargé de Mission in Asmara.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

13. To ensure appropriate monitoring of the returnee operation from the Sudan, a Field Office was opened in Tesseni in early 1995. This Field Office is manned by a Head of Sub-Office, a National Field Officer and eleven General Service staff. The revised 1995 requirements therefore include provisions for the cost of these posts as well as for the purchase of vehicles and basic office furniture and equipment which was not foreseen in the initial 1995 estimates. Replacement costs for two vehicles in the Office of the Chargé de Mission in Asmara are also included in the revised 1995 requirements. Furthermore, the UNHCR presence in Asmara has

been strengthened to support the repatriation through the creation of one Nationa Officer and eight General Service posts.

(iii) Initial 1996 estimates (all sources of funds)

14. In the proposed 1996 requirements, reduced provisions for non-expendable property have been made on the assumption that most of the required purchases wil take place during 1995 as planned. However a modest provision is proposed for th replacement in 1996 of old office equipment.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN ERITREA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
446.8	–	–	EMERGENCY FUND	–
3.0 a/	–	599.4	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	539.2
2.3 a/	–	3,000.0 b/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
1.9 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
454.0		3,599.4	SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	539.2
454.0		3,599.4	TOTAL (1)	539.2
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES				
2,820.2	–	8,417.4	HORN OF AFRICA	8,668.5
361.5	–	799.9	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	746.5
137.5	–	159.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	146.3
3,319.2		9,376.3	TOTAL (2)	9,561.3
3,773.2		12,975.7	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	10,100.5

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

b/ allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation